

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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THE PROPOSED CAR FARE RAISE

Last week the public utility commission met at the Missouri and entered upon the initial hearing relative to a higher rate of street car fare for the people of St. Joseph.

That there will be an increase in fare is just probable, for despite the fact that we do not live in the day of the 5 cent street car fare in St. Joseph is soon to pass as it is in other large cities. The reason is self evident, for the simply stated fact that the dollar is only half as big as it used to be. Transient companies have to meet the financial needs created by doubled wages and material prices of coal and materials for steamship and other enterprises.

Street railway companies in St. Joseph, and numerous cities in Kansas, are despatching another raise. And as a matter of fact, it is not only the fact that the dollar is only half as big as it used to be, but the fact that the dollar is only half as big as it used to be. The maximum pay of \$2.00 an hour does not measure up to the needs of a time of phenomenal high prices in supporting and raising a family. It is not commensurate with the pay of labor in other lines.

And at the same time the street car company must be permitted to earn enough money to enable it to pay its employees a fair and living wage. It is entitled to earn enough, in addition, to make possible a reasonable dividend on the money invested. As a matter of public policy it should be able to count on dividends sufficient to justify extensions and improvements, unprofitable in the initial stage, such as the needs of a fast-growing city require. Efficient rapid transit is a part of the very life blood of a modern city, and St. Joseph, which happily covers a wide expanse of territory, is no exception to the rule. Without it we should have congested living districts instead of multitudes of detached homes covering our far-flung hills. It is the modern local transportation system that makes the workman's and clerk's home in the suburbs, with its gardens, its chickens, and frequently its cow, possible. And these possibilities go quite a way to take the curse off the high cost of living, in addition to making living conditions much more healthful and pleasant.

We want to keep street car fares as low as possible. We want this not alone out of our purely selfish regard for the difference between a nickel and six or seven cents, spent twice or three or four times daily, but also because the higher fares mount the greater will be the discouragement to suburban homes and there will develop a tendency, instead, to congested living districts within walking distance of the stores and places of employment. We shall not be willing, therefore, that the street railway company be permitted to charge fares that will earn it more than honest dividends after all the expenses of management and upkeep are met.

But that honest dividend it is entitled to have and must have, because it is an indispensable public utility and cannot grow and expand and give efficient service without it.

SURE STARTING OUT WELL

It is truly a sad story that comes from Nebraska—a truly political heart-breaker—which gives the details of how the designing sisters down east more versed in the wiles of politics betrayed their sisters of Nebraska.

The Nebraska legislature, which is 89 per cent Republican, is soon to meet in special session to vote on the question of ratification of the federal amendment for women suffrage. Last week each member of the legislature received a letter from the National Woman Suffrage Association beseeching the legislative favor for ratification of the national woman suffrage amendment. Included was this pertinent paragraph:

"The women of Nebraska will feel a keen sense of gratitude and loyalty to the democratic party and to the men of their own state if they are enfranchised by the ratification of their own legislature."

A horrible thing, truly a horrible thing, to be said to a Republican state legislature! No wonder that the good ladies of Lincoln indignantly denied it. Representative Clark Jeary, ever vigilant in defense of his dignity as a legislator and his pure partisanship as a Republican, made haste to address Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. Was the letter authentic? But, meanwhile, without waiting to hear from Mrs. Catt, the Lincoln suffragists rushed

into print to state that they had no doubt but that it was a "fake," an anti-suffrage effort to repel Republican votes from the suffrage ratification. The national suffrage leaders would, they knew, never stoop to party prejudice to win votes for the great cause!

But now Mrs. Catt confirms the worst suspicion. In a second letter to the legislators she apologizes for "a mistake which occurred in our office." She explains:

"A page of facts concerning the federal suffrage amendment designed for the southern legislatures was prepared with a view to meeting southern objections. . . . Of course it is self-evident that these facts were designed only for the one-party southern states."

And then, Mrs. Catt diplomatically adds:

"The National American Woman Suffrage Association realizes that the federal amendment was passed by a Republican Congress and that the governor and legislature of Nebraska are Republican. It acknowledges its gratitude to the party for the present status of the question."

Of course it does. In Democratic states the association acknowledges its gratitude to a Democratic president for bringing the question to the fore. In states under Republican rule it gives thanks to a Republican congress for contributing the necessary voice. In plain words, it undertakes to play the same little game, as old as politics, of playing both ends against the middle wherever it can be done without getting caught.

No one with a knowledge of human nature will be greatly surprised. The great disappointment is that of those women who sincerely believed that woman suffrage would bring a political millennium.

THE MAIN THING IS THE CURE

In congress this week Representative Tinkham of Massachusetts introduced a resolution appointing a commission to investigate the cost of living and report not later than Dec. 15. He reminds congress that it has duties more important than partisanship and demagoguery. Although half a dozen committees are snooping through the records of the war in an effort to ex-aggregate errors and belitt triumphs, no attention has yet been paid to a question paramount in millions of homes.

High prices for the necessities of life need no elaborate explanation. They were brought about in war-time by scarcity, by inflation, by the extraordinary demand and by enormously increased costs of production in the way of wages and materials. Blameable as the meat-packers and other combinations in control of food products have been in many of their practices in the past, they speak the truth when they attribute present conditions to a vicious circle in which they, like everybody else, are involved.

What is needed at this moment is not so much reasons for high prices as the suggestion of some remedy for them. There can be no doubt that inflation is at flood tide and that the dollar is the cheapest of our possessions. Under the stress of war, government, by price-fixing and regulation of trade to meet desperate emergencies, has been and still is responsible for much of the trouble.

If there is no escape from this ballooning, the country should be so informed and make its plans accordingly. If the withdrawal of the government from the control of the markets and the application of law to extortioners will help solve the problem, that hope should be held out to a patient population. Both diagnosis and cure will come under the scope of Mr. Tinkham's commission, but the main thing must be the cure.

LABOR IS HURTING ITSELF

Is not organized labor in this country but in England, France and Italy making a tremendous mistake by striking and stopping the world's production and trade and commerce at a time when it is most needed? Perhaps labor is seizing opportunity in order to show its power, but it is in the position of a man sitting on a limb of a tree and sawing off the limb near the trunk. The amputation will take place all right, but the man will be the sufferer.

The war advanced labor's interests tremendously. In this country the war labor board granted recognition to unions' union activity and collective bargaining. Former President Taft as one of the joint chairmen of the board was foremost in granting concessions "during the period of the war." But the war is over, wages are the highest ever known and the world needs more production in order to bring down the cost of living. Labor strikes anywhere which tend to check or stop production will certainly tend to increase the cost of living—the very thing that labor wants to avoid.

The world is in as perilous a condition right now as it ever has been. People are starving in Europe, production is at a standstill in many countries, America is drawn on heavily for food, clothing and supplies, prices are not declining and the cost of living is still a tragedy to the masses. There is as much need of uninter-

rupted production now as there was during actual hostilities. Every strike is a blow to the welfare of the world and to the real welfare of the strikers themselves.

THE VAPORINGS OF KANSAS "AIRMEN"

Windy Kansas advertisers—the state board of agriculture "experts"—the fellows who tell anything just so it will keep the windy state in the public eye—are now getting what is coming to them—and Missouri notemakers holding like state jobs who have been rapidly falling into careless ways with the truth, will do well to reform while the reforming is good.

All spring—all summer—ever since the first wheat sprouted—we have heard nothing but fulminations from that windy aggregation, of what a tremendous wheat crop Kansas would harvest—what a vast amount would be raised—and lately the whole press has been clogged with appeals for harvest hands—who after they got to the fields had to accept smaller wages than advertised—and now—what do we find? That august body, the state board of agriculture, through its windy secretary sends out this:

"Judging by threshing returns and other indications up to July 19, correspondents now place their estimate of this year's Kansas wheat, wheat crop at 153,929,200 bushels, or an average yield of 13.7 bushels per acre, as against their pre-harvest estimate of June 21, of a prospective production of 223,215,000 bushels or 19.3 bushels per acre. Although the decline is keenly disappointing, the year's crop is the second largest in the state's history, the 1914 output of 189 million bushels only exceeding it."

Wind—wind—wind—and yet more wind.

HILES SEES SOMETHING

Charles D. Hiles was formerly chairman of the Republican national committee, and it is admitted by even his enemies that he is a man of keen vision and discerning qualities. He has just written a letter which has been printed in the New York Evening Post which his fellow Republicans should read. In it he says:

"There is no danger that President Wilson will perpetuate his power through his advocacy of the League of Nations unless the Republicans make a partisan issue of the covenant. The league is an idea born out of the agony of war, out of the determination that the incalculable waste of life and treasure shall hereafter be neither the aim nor the fate of civilized nations. McKinley, Hay, Roosevelt, Root, Choate and Taft sponsored it before Mr. Wilson came into power. "Republicans who commit the mischievous error of encouraging an unwarranted prejudice against the league because Mr. Wilson, through the accident of position, is its champion, may give the president a coveted issue for 1920, and in doing so may endanger the chances of the confirmation of a covenant which has great potentialities for enduring peace."

The League of Nations is vastly greater than the political prospects of any party or any individual. What happens politically to the Republican party or the Democratic party, or to President Wilson or Mr. Borah or Mr. Lodge or anybody else, is of no consequence whatever compared with the importance of what happens to the one chance before the world of organizing a permanent peace.

Mr. Hiles in his letter not only shows sound principles and keen vision, but he is playing the most useful kind of politics for his party.

PROFITTEERING IN PRUNES

Go to your grocer here and buy a pound of the lowly Oregon prune—the breakfast opener of the boarding house—and you will pay forty cents for it. They too will be found to be last year's Oregon prunes, for which the highest price paid Oregon growers was 11 cents.

Here you have example of profiteering of the rankest kind. For all his toil, all his investment, all his years of non-profit in prune-growing, the grower got 11 cents while the transportation companies and mostly the speculators and food gamblers take the 29 cents between the grower's price and the consumer's price.

The Pacific coast produces all the prunes grown in America. The Pacific coast is entitled to the fruit of its industry. There is a reasonable profit that the east should receive in handling the Oregon prunes. But there is no reason why eastern speculators should take three times as much profit out of Oregon prunes as the grower gets.

Is the government not under obligation to deal with the situation? If the gambling goes on, will there not be a limit reached, against which the people will rebel?

In Oregon fruit growers have organized a state-wide association for marketing their own product. It is an effort to circumvent the gamblers and establish sane distribution. It will combat the highly speculative and gambling practices from which both producer and consumer suffer.

SENATOR JOHNSON'S NIGHTMARE

Senator H. Johnson of California has discovered a most hideous state of affairs in New England. He has found that everywhere the League of Nations was being rammed down the throats of a subjugated democracy by means of "propaganda, intellectual

coercion, and political terrorism." Fortunately the senator from California was on the spot in time. He said "Let there be light," and immediately the gibbering shades of propaganda, intellectual coercion and political terrorism fled back to the caves of primeval chaos, and the men of New England are once more free. It is the old story. When I conduct a campaign of education, it is leadership; when you carry on a campaign of education it is propaganda. When public assemblies vote to support me, it is public opinion rallying to the support of a sacred cause. When public meetings, religious conventions, federations of labor declare in favor of the League of Nations, it is political terrorism. When Senator Johnson takes 200 square miles of Kiao-chau and turns it into 60,000 square miles of Shantung, or takes 200,000 natives of Kiao-chau and expands them into forty millions of Chinese handed over to slavery, it is argument. But when reasons are advanced why the United States should share in the partnership of a reorganized world, it is intellectual coercion. Against that final danger we cannot be warned too strongly or too frequently. History is full of examples of intellectual coercion, such as the saddling by a conspiracy of scholars upon public opinion of the superstition that two and two make four, or that the earth revolves around the sun.

ALSO APPLIES TO SENATOR SPENCER

One day Senator Spencer of this good old state is for the league with reservations—the next day he is against it—and the next day he is for nothing. The Missouri senator stands in the class with that of Kellogg, a Minnesota GOP senator of whom it is told that the other day while he was talking with Senator Johnson of California, the latter being positive in his stand against the league, the following conversation occurred:

"I was just reading your speech on the League of Nations," said Johnson to Kellogg. "It was a good speech."

"I put a lot of time in on it," was the answer.

"How long did it take you to deliver it?" asked Johnson.

"About forty-five minutes," Kellogg replied.

"Well, that is about what I figured," said Johnson. "Twenty minutes for the league, twenty minutes against and five minutes in rebuttal."

A question that the Republican end of the county court should at once settle is, if it is wrong for Bob George to use the county car for joy riding (which he has never done) is it right for the special highway department car to be used for joy riding purposes as it was last Friday night when the rear seat of the car was occupied by a woman and child. In other words is it wrong for a Democrat to use a county car for joy riding (which he does not, neither has he ever done) and right for a Republican to use a county car for joy riding purposes? The taxpayers want an answer.

ONE GOOD LITTLE SIGN

We soon may have cheaper foreign fruit—if it is nothing but the old banana which before the war sold for 5 and 10 cents a dozen here, and now is 30 and sometimes more. In New York the benefit is already felt, for where the people here have been paying from 7 to 10 cents for fruit ordinarily retailing for 1 to 2 cents, something near the old price is in prospect. The vessels of the United Fruit company that were taken for war purposes have recently returned to their old business. The ships of the Panama Railroad Steamship company with cold storage space for shipping supplies to the canal zone will carry fruit on the return trip.

Some of the dealers say that "the vessels will bring bananas at so low a freight rate that they will be as cheap as rainwater, for if they do not load up with bananas, they will have to return with ballast for cargo."

The shooting of Supt. Fox by Alex Gaston from what can be learned was entirely uncalled for. Gaston had been dropped from State Hospital No. 2 for friction with Supt. Williams, and it is reported that he had trouble with Supt. Fox dating almost from the time that he assumed the present place. His reputation for getting into trouble with his employers should have been given consideration before his employment at the city plant and this shooting would thus have been prevented.

There is hardly a doubt but that the bonds so hastily voted for city improvement at great expense to the taxpayers of this city are in grave danger of being invalid, and if not, there will be long delay before the errors are corrected and work can proceed. Lawyers as good as there are in St. Joseph are confident that the issue will be proven invalid.

Joe Black of Richmond certainly handed the women delegates at St. Louis meeting a bunch which he

told them after they had voted down his pet measure that if they kept on acting that way "the Republican party would go down the steep declivity to hell a blazing comet in a sea of blood."

The order of the council to pave Frederick avenue within 150 days, made by the council Monday night, will no doubt work a hardship on the taxpayers along that thoroughfare, but it will at the same time make an improvement that is absolutely essential.

This is the season when the Chautauqua is in full bloom—and when more old has-beens and broken down "talent" which cannot make hostlers wages on the legitimate stage is being foisted up to a more or less credulous public as "the great artist Madam so-and-so," or "the world renowned Prof. so-and-so."

The women who attended the Republican state committee meeting at St. Louis must certainly have felt happy when they were forced to stand on the platform and have the men judge their "points" about the same way in which cattle or swine are judged.

And then to think of it the one woman who refused to go on the platform at the St. Louis GOP committee meeting and have her "points" examined, won over the sister who did allow the examination of her "points."

It will not do for Observer Belden to give us many predictions of thunder showers, and then fail to produce them as he did last week. This elevated temperature is not especially conducive to good temper.

That brand of "harmony" displayed at the meeting of the Republican state committee at St. Louis Saturday was of such good quality that had it been a little thicker the police would have been called in.

If the "interests" interested can provoke Uncle Sam to war on Mexico, it will be done. The race for the almighty dollar will cause some men nowadays to do almost anything—and they do succeed.

Wait Dickey gave the women the first glimpse of practical politics when he announced at the GOP meeting that any woman who did not have money enough on which to get home should apply to him.

The way that they stop plain profiteering in France and Italy is to demolish the profiteer's place of business—and perhaps if there is too much provocation it might be done in St. Joseph.

Gov. Gardner might do worse than to decline to ride from Jefferson City to Sedalia in an airplane to attend the state fair. The governor's balloon is getting a little shaky in the rigging anyhow.

The color line race riots are now assuming huge proportions in this country and are a dangerous menace to our boasted civilization. A remedy must be found—and that found quickly.

If you are a Republican you can joy ride in a county car—if you are a Democrat, you must not—at least that seems to be the way that the Republican end of the county court looks at it.

If the board of public works will keep at it as they have started in the past week, St. Joseph will have many needed improvements by the time that King Winter gets here.

The gardeners and the market house stall people it would appear have a combine to control "garden truck" prices and quantities and are making the public pay.

From the way that the Americans are crowding into Germany after the trade of that country, it would look as though we never had been at war with that nation.

This paper is unable to answer as to whether the bankers are in a combine or not, but it does know that the price of meats is out of sight—and not dropping, either.

Won't those sweltering legislators feel happy at noon today when the song rings in the House and sends them on that five weeks' vacation? If Major General Strong and Col. Grinstead are guilty of those outrages against the soldiers, punishment should be swift and heavy.

The women were brutally and frankly told at St. Louis that they must become a part of the GOP machine or stay out.

There has been too much petty stealing in St. Joseph lately. With work going begging, there is no excuse to steal.

President Wilson will soon start on his swing around the circle and it is hoped will give St. Joseph a brief visit.

For that matter, however, he could do but little here, for this section is pretty thoroughly welded to the League of Nations programme.

That first liquor case under wartime prohibition seems as hard to settle as the League of Nations affair.

What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

Not by the Men.
A man is judged by his clothes and a woman is often judged by her lack of them.—Hopkins Journal.An Answer to Sonny.
Answer to "Sonny": Eighteen isn't too early to marry, young fellow, but \$19 a week is.—St. Louis Times.Bartenders and Dodos.
Of course the bartender may not be as extinct as the dodo, but probably he feels worse about it.—Festus News.Of Its Usual Variety
Kansas City is to be advertised by air, says the Star. A new brand of the hot air variety, no doubt.—Hopkins Journal.Bulls and Bulls.
A South African bull recently brought \$11,600. The Irish variety are sold to the comic papers at about ten cents a line.—Kansas City Post.Nor Any Other State
Senator Norris has refused an invitation to discuss the treaty with the president, and is proud of it. But is Nebraska?—Sedalia Capital.Would Make Bigger Hit.
The marquis of Salisbury is talked of for British ambassador to the United States. The marquis of Queensbury might make a bigger hit.—St. Louis Times.The Frying Comes Later.
"Fry-Brown" is the caption of a wedding writup in the Worth county papers, by which we judge it was no half-baked affair but well done.—Cole County Rustler.Any Excuse for a Raise
When the map of Europe is readjusted school children will have to have new geographies. Geographies will raise the price because ice cream is higher.—Worth County Times.Excuse Is Valid Goodwin
The Sentinel does not contain as much news as usual on account of the publication of the Platte River District, an also having a car of peaches on track.—Parnell Sentinel.How Do You Know?
There was a time when the corset started up near the collar bone and ran down to the hips. But nowadays the corset starts at the hips and runs down to the knees.—Kansas City Times.Alas, the Poor Ford
Someone ought to get up a league for the prevention of cruelty to Ford cars. Other automobiles may have to stand the same abuse but none of them look as bad as the Henrys.—Craig Leader.They Claim—Also Forget
Republican leaders in the House of Representatives are claiming a fictitious saving to the nation of \$1,500,000,000 in appropriation bills, but are omitting to state that they voted for these bills at the last session and claimed great patriotic credit for doing so.—Milan Standard.Will Become Very Popular
Under the prohibition law as last amended householders are allowed to keep spirits in their homes and serve their guests, provided it has been legally acquired. As the time for securing it expired June 30, it would seem that this concession will be of little value. Those who had the price to store and did so before the ban went into effect will probably find themselves suddenly very popular and will have no trouble in having all the guests they can accommodate.—Moberly Democrat.Senator Spencer's Gyrations
Senator Spencer was dry yesterday, but slipped over to the wets today. Last week he was for the League of Nations, met Lodge a day or two afterwards, changed his mind and came out against it until he received a few more instructions from his Missouri constituents. Spencer will keep on making a fool of himself until he popularizes J. M. Reed, for whom many people have some regard, because you can always tell where he stands, even though he often stands for the wrong.—Booneville Advertiser.Having a Real "Time"
We note in the Gallatin Democrat a column story about a gentleman of that city who had been arrested for bootlegging and was supposed to be in jail but instead he was on the streets

drunk. The Democrat offers \$25.00 to any public official or other citizen who can prove the statement untrue. Gallatin is certainly getting loose if all the noise over there is true.—Union Star Herald.

Which Is the Truth?
According to the working of the new economic principle the announcement that the apple crop in bumper proportions should mean that the price will be the highest ever known.—Kansas City Post.And Still Another "Excuse"
And here comes the announcement that the South's peanut crop is greater than ever. But, really, haven't these allusions to the South's politicians gone about far enough?—Kansas City Times.For the Profiteer Works
Yes, Malinda, there is a record breaking sugar crop at hand, but that does not mean cheaper sugar. On the contrary, sweetness will come higher—it's a way the profiteer works the game.—Cole County Rustler.That Is Just What He Is
J. L. Shepherd, the new Secretary of the State Democratic Committee, is a Wilson Democrat, heartily in favor of the League of Nations. Now he is only a genius at Democracy, all will be well.—Cole County Rustler.Church Attendance Will Be Better
Under the nation-wide prohibition law, churches may still use wine for sacramental purposes. But of course it would be out of place to suggest that churches may look forward to an increase in attendance.—Worth County Times.It Explains the Scramble
One of the provisions in the Peace Treaty is that Germany shall deliver to France 10,000 goats. That explains that wild scrambling which stirred Germany a short time ago. Nobody wanted to be one of the 10,000.—Kansas City Times.It Will Be "Interesting"
Jack Dempsey, heavy weight champion prize fighter, has signed a moving picture contract. It will be interesting to see Mr. Dempsey knocked down, kicked through a swinging door and walked upon by Mr. Chaplin, champion heavy weight of the films.—Kansas City Times.Yes, He "Accepted"
He wrote seventeen letters of application had sixteen friends write testimonials, referred various firms to seven others, called twenty-one times himself, had friends of the family phone in fourteen cases—and then the local paper said he had "accepted" a position.—Booneville Advertiser.And Will Stay that Way
We begin to wonder what the prospects are for a good crop of home-grown watermelons. The reason we wonder about it, is that the price of the shipped-in article is so blamed high the ordinary human can do little more than gaze longingly at the fruit and just imagine its taste.—Atchison County Mail.Shupp Must Have Notoriety
We note much favorable comment in our exchanges on the intimation from W. C. Shupp, head of the Missouri Anti-Saloon league, that he will next transfer the scene of his activities to Mexico to combat the liquor evil in that country. It seems too good to be true. There are only a few newspapers in Mexico, and Shupp will never go where his personal activities cannot be much heralded in print.—Henry County Democrat.To New Headquarters
The move to locate the democratic state headquarters at Kansas City instead of St. Louis, should meet with the approval of the Democrats of the state. Kansas City and Jackson county are democratic while St. Louis city and county are republican with practically no chance of redemption. Kansas City democrats in politics are like they are in business, the liveliest there are in the state and we believe a much more aggressive campaign will be conducted from that city than St. Louis.—Moberly Democrat.Those Poor Old Grandmas
Isn't it really distressing what a load of misery and woe some of those dear old grandmothers U. S. Senators are carrying around with them over that Shantung provinces question. To hear some of them wall one might easily believe that the "chink" was his long lost baby brother. The fact is that China had signed away the privileges of the Shantung to Germany long before the world went to war. The war came on, Japan as one of the allies whipped Germany in the far east, and drove her out of China, and naturally took over the treaty privileges of the defeated nation. These Senators are beating the brush, the air and his majestic majesty trying to find or create an issue. That's all there is in the Shantung question.—St. Albans County Gazette.